

Wisconsin Forward

Grand Commandary of Wisconsin

gkctwis.org



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July 2022

Sir Knights, It is with hopeful joy that I greet you as the newly installed Grand Commander of Knights Templar of the State of Wisconsin. Before I go any further, I would like to introduce my lady of 25-years, Pamela. A little about myself, my Father and Grandfather were Scottish Rite Masons. I knocked on the door of a lodge in my early 30's. My oldest brother joined shortly after I, and he became a York Rite Mason and a Sir Knight. He encouraged me to join the York Rite and eventually Commandery. I enjoy outdoor activities with my Lady including Hiking, Biking, Camping, and Boating. I also like to tell stories and use stories as allegory. One last thing, I am a mild history buff.

The Wisconsin State Motto is 'Forward' and according to the Wisconsin Historic Society, the term 'Forward' reflects on "...Wisconsin's continuous drive to be a national leader..." My hope is that we will as Men, Husbands, Partners, Father's, and Grandfather's embrace our State Motto to strive for excellence in our homes, community, lodges, and Asylums.

Now that we have dusted off our regalia, let out, or tucked in our waistlines on our uniforms, and shined our marching shoes, it is time to get back together. After many conversations, I learned that we have several Brothers who are interested in joining the York Rite, we should ready ourselves to help our Brothers through their Royal Arch Mason and Royal and Select Masters degrees. Look for festivals this summer. Also, please save the date for Saturday, October 1st for the Mediterranean Pass and Order of Malta and Illustrious Order of the Red Cross to be presented in their full form by the Sir Knights of Wisconsin No. 1 and other Commanderies.

This year it is my fervent hope that every Wisconsin Commandery holds a Homecoming Banquet, Dinner, Potluck, or Picnic. You can combine the dinner with other events, such as a Dinner with your Christmas Observance, or a Potluck before a meeting. I hope spouses and partners are invited to the event, making it a family affair. I also hope that you invite members from all Wisconsin Comanderies, Grand Officers, Lodge Brothers, and my Lady Pamela and myself. I do ask that you make time for a short program and give me an opportunity to speak at the event. I promise not to take up too much time.

I also hope to meet with our Commanders and anyone else during a regular, bimonthly, Commanders' meeting via Zoom. I will start up the meetings in September 2022. I look forward to chatting with you throughout the year. I challenge you to be willing to learn, but more importantly being willing to tell me what is going on in your Commandery.

This part goes without saying, but remember, to start preparing to deliver an Order of the Temple. Even if you do not plan to host an Inspection, build an Order of the Temple team. Fill out the principle roles, guests can often be relied on to fill in as Hermits and Guards. I look forward to seeing your roster at our first Commanders' meeting.

Finally, going back to our State Motto, 'Forward'. I challenge us to strive to excel in what we do, be our best, not only in Templary or Masonry, but in everything we do. Move Forward in our lives and strive to be a leader.

Fraternally

S.K. Kristoffer Pillar,
Grand Commander